



The John Gunnell House is a substantial Greek Revival-style dwelling built in 1851-1852 in Fairfax County by planter John Gunnell (1793-1874) on land acquired by his father, William Gunnell III, from Bryan Fairfax in 1791. The property remained in the ownership of the descendants of William Gunnell III until 1946. The two-story frame house, clad in weatherboard, and built on a brick English basement, is one of the last surviving dwellings of this form and style in Fairfax County. The house remained in the ownership of descendants of William Gunnell III through four generations until sold to investors in 1946. It exemplifies, through this long tenure by a single prominent family, the transition of agriculture in the Upper Potomac area of Fairfax County from frontier subsistence to large plantations worked by slaves to small family farms. Gunnell's forebears were among the earliest settlers in what is now Fairfax County. The large family rose from indentured servitude to positions of wealth and power.

[Nomination Form](#)



John Gunnell House

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places November 27, 2006

